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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 11 February 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

While Israeli officials continue to make empty claims before the international community regarding Israel's alleged desire for peace, the actions of the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, consistently and blatantly belie their words. Israel, the occupying Power, continues to launch military assaults against the Palestinian civilian population under its occupation, killing more people, including women and children, and causing more damage and destruction.

In the early dawn hours of today, the Israeli occupying forces, backed by tanks, raided the densely populated Shajaiya neighbourhood in Gaza City. At least 12 Palestinians were killed by the occupying forces during the military assault, including Hani Mahmoud Abu Skhaila, a Hamas leader, who had been previously targeted for assassination by the occupying forces. In addition, more than 50 people, including children, were wounded as a result of the assault, several of them critically. The occupying forces also blew up one of the houses in the area during the raid. Also today, the occupying forces shot and killed two Palestinian men in Rafah, bringing the total of casualties in this one day to at least 14 Palestinians.

That Israeli military assault on Gaza has been carried out on the heels of continuous raids and assaults that have been carried out by the occupying forces throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In recent weeks, in particular, the occupying forces have launched several attacks in the Occupied Gaza Strip, including in densely populated civilian neighbourhoods in Gaza City, killing several civilians, including children and an ambulance medic. The Israeli occupying forces have also repeatedly invaded the Palestinian city of Nablus, carrying out house-to-house raids and searches, arresting Palestinian civilians and bulldozing homes. Indeed, the actions of Israel, the occupying Power, have ensured continued rise of

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the toll of death and destruction throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In that regard, I regret to inform you that, since our last letter to you, the Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 61 Palestinians. Also, on 14 January 2004, a British national, Thomas Peter Hurndall, who was wounded by the occupying forces on 4 November 2003, died of his wounds.

In addition to the killing and destruction, the occupying Power also persists in its imposition of stringent restrictions on the freedom of movement of persons and goods throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, continuing to severely affect the socio-economic conditions and the dire humanitarian situation on the ground. Moreover, the occupying Power continues to carry out innumerable illegal measures and practices in connection with its ongoing construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem. Palestinian land continues to be confiscated, agricultural land and properties continue to be destroyed, and thousands of Palestinian civilians continue to be obstructed from access to their lands, jobs, schools and health care facilities, and continue to be isolated from one another.

It is clear that through the continuation of such illegal, violent and oppressive actions and practices, Israel, the occupying Power, is assuring the continued rise of tensions, and mounting devastation and desperation throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. As such, it is refueling the vicious cycle of violence, and undermining any other efforts to calm the situation on the ground and resume peace negotiations.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 179 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. Those letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 26 December 2003 (A/ES-10/255-S/2003/1206), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of those war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable, and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my profound regret to inform you that, since our last letter, at least 61 Palestinians, including children, have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the number of martyrs killed since September 2003 to 2,759 Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified are contained in the annex to the present letter).

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Somaia **Barghouti**
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

Annex to the identical letters dated 11 February 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (Saturday, 27 December 2003, to Wednesday, 11 February 2004)

Saturday, 27 December 2003

Rajae'i Azmi Rayan

Tuesday, 30 December 2003

Fadel Fawzi Al-Najjar

Friday, 2 January 2004

Mohammed Jaber Hasan Saeed (16 years old)

Saturday, 3 January 2004

1. Amjad Bilal Nabil Al-Masri (15 years old)
2. Amer Kazem Kamel Arafat (17 years old)
3. Rawhi Hazem Rawhi Shoman
4. Mohammed Quis Ismail Al-Masri
5. Mutasem Mohammed Abu Alhassan (17 years old)

Monday, 5 January 2004

1. Maher Taher Abbas Taber
2. Taj Alain Abdel Karim Sief (16 years old)

Wednesday, 7 January 2004

1. Abdelafou Nasouh Al-Qasas
2. Radwan Ibrahim Al-Attary
3. Hisham Ahmed Kharyouch

Thursday, 8 January 2004

1. Mahmoud Ibrahim Odeh Al-Kurd
2. Asaad Saleh Khalil Khileleh

* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 = 2,759.

Sunday, 11 January 2004

Fuad Kamel Amr Jarwan

Saturday, 17 January 2004

Mohammed Khamees Joumaa (17 years old)

Monday, 19 January 2004

Farid Khalil Abu Ismail

Wednesday, 21 January 2004

Mona Ahmed Ismail

Thursday, 22 January 2004

Mohsen Haidar Mohammed Al-Da'our (11 years old)

Saturday, 24 January 2004

1. Ahraf Nasr Abdallah Al-Mubayad
2. Samir Khalil Diab Al-Mubayad
3. Sa'deh Hussein Al-A'raj
4. Ziab Fawzi Jaber

Wednesday, 28 January 2004

1. Iyad Mahmoud Suliman Al-Ra'yi
2. Moussa Suliman Dalool
3. Ahmed Mohammed Ali Abu Rakab
4. Marwan Mahmoud Attiyeh Basal
5. Sameh Kamel To'tah (17 years old)
6. Othman Mahmoud Jundieh
7. Sami Mohammed Saleh Badawi (15 years old)
8. Akram Abdelkarim Abu Ajami (17 years old)

Friday, 30 January 2004

1. Mohammed Yussef Al-Ashqar
2. Mohammed Khalaf Al-Hosni
3. Jihad Mohammed Ismail Abu Ghalieh Al-Souwati

Sunday, 1 February 2004

1. Shady Riyad Mahmoud Milhem
2. Baha' Hatem Joudeh
3. Majdy Mahmoud Al-Khatib
4. Yasser Abdel Hamid Abu Aleish
5. Mohammed Mahmoud Abu Odeh

Thursday, 5 February 2004

1. Aziz Mahmoud Al-Shami
2. Tarek Majdy Al-Sousi (12 years old)

Sunday, 8 February 2004

1. Ashraf Abu Libdeh
2. Hassan Ali Rizqeh (17 years old)

Monday, 9 February 2004

1. Khalil Ibrahim Bouwadi
2. Ramy Slah Abu Mandil
3. Ahmed Mahdi Awad Amr

Wednesday, 11 February 2004

1. Mohammed Ahmed Hals (17 years old)
2. Mohammed Ayesh Al-Ajleh
3. Ahmed Kamal Ahmed Abu Ormaneh
4. Haytham Ribhi Abed
5. Hani Mahmoud Abu Skhaila
6. Ismail Mohamed Abu Alatta
7. Akram Akilan
8. Mahdi Yaqoub Zideyeh
9. Amer Mohamed Al-Ghamri
10. Ayman Nasr Al-Shiekh Khalil
11. Ashraf Farouk Hassanein
12. Mohammed Jihad Al-Hayek
13. Mohammed Zahran Tantawi
14. Ibrahim Mohammed Za'rab

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Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 27 February 2004 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The Israeli occupying forces continue to kill and wound Palestinian civilians as Israel, the occupying Power, continues to carry out its illegal policies and practices throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The occupying forces continue to use excessive, indiscriminate and lethal force against the Palestinian civilian population. In recent days, the Israeli occupying forces have used live ammunition, in addition to rubber-coated steel bullets and tear gas, against unarmed civilians, demonstrating, including by stone-throwing, against the occupying Power's illegal actions, including the ongoing construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Yesterday, 26 February 2004, the Israeli occupying forces shot and killed two Palestinian men, Mohammed Fadil Hashim Rayan, 25 years old, and Zakariya Mahmoud Eid Salem, 28 years old, who were among dozens of Palestinian civilians demonstrating against the commencement by Israel of construction of the Wall in the areas of the villages of Biddu, Beit Ijza and Beit Duqu near the illegal Israeli settlement of "Givon Hahadasha". When the demonstrations began early yesterday morning, the occupying forces attempted to disperse the demonstrators by unleashing tear gas against them. Many of the demonstrators had tried to block the paths of bulldozers that were raising land in the area for construction of the Wall. The occupying forces then opened fire with live ammunition against the demonstrators, killing the two men and injuring 70 other Palestinian civilians, many of whom were seriously wounded, including Mohammed Badwan, a 21-year-old man who was critically injured after being shot in the head, and Mohammed Hmedian, 70 years old, who was struck by a rubber bullet and sustained a serious eye injury. In addition to the two men killed, an elderly man, Abdelrahman Abu Abed, 70 years old, died of a heart attack induced by the inhalation of tear gas.

Israel's vicious use of force against Palestinian civilians protesting the ongoing and incessant illegal Israeli measures being carried out for the construction of the

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Wall, including the confiscation of their land, the destruction of their property, the uprooting of their trees and the isolation of their villages and agricultural lands, illustrates the intransigence of the occupying Power in its pursuit of this illegitimate campaign in flagrant violation of international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and the will of the international community. The occupying Power continues to construct this Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, with total contempt for the resolutions of the United Nations and in complete disregard of the current advisory proceedings of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, on the legal consequences arising from the continued construction of the Wall.

At the same time, the occupying Power persists in carrying out other illegal policies and measures throughout the Occupied Territory. On Wednesday, 25 February 2004, the Israeli occupying forces raided the city of Ramallah and imposed a curfew on its inhabitants. Dozens of Israeli jeeps, armoured personnel carriers and trucks invaded the city and raided several banks. The occupying forces then entered banks, searched computer and account records and seized currency amounting to at least US$ 9 million. During the raid, the occupying forces threw stun grenades and fired tear gas and rubber-coated steel bullets at protesters, injuring about 45 Palestinian civilians.

The above-mentioned actions, in addition to the continuing restrictions being imposed on the movement of the Palestinian civilian population and the detention and imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians, constitute serious violations and even grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention and additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions. The international community must continue to act to bring an end to such violations and breaches and to ensure Israel's compliance with international law and with its obligations as an occupying Power.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 180 letters addressed to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 11 February 2004 (A/ES-10/256-S/2004/167), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is with profound regret that I inform you that, since our last letter, at least 18 Palestinians, including a woman and children, have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2003 to 2,777 Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dr. Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem[a] (Thursday, 12 February, to Thursday, 26 February 2004)

Thursday, 12 February 2004

1. Samer Jasser Fawzi Arrar
2. Mohammed Abdelghani Al-Hamaida (18 years old)
3. Basheer Khalil Abu Urmana (12 years old)

Friday, 13 February 2004

1. Ahmed Abdelqader Nazzal
2. Mohammed Issa Ahmed Jalaitah
3. Suad Mohammed Qreinawi

Monday, 16 February 2004

1. Jamal Mohammed Yussef Al-Afifi
2. Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Sheikh
3. Mohammed Saleh Zurub

Tuesday, 17 February 2004

Muin Fayez Abu-Sharikh (18 years old)

Wednesday, 18 February 2004

Rifaat Shehadeh Shaiir

Thursday, 19 February 2004

1. Muhannad Faiq Mohammed Abu Hattab
2. Mowafak Mohammed Shaban Al-Araj

Saturday, 21 February 2004

Osama Yussef Imghari

Thursday, 26 February 2004

1. Zakariya Mahmoud Eid Salem
2. Mohammed Fadil Hashim Rayan
3. Abdelrahman Ibrahim Abu Abed

Friday, 27 February 2004

Abdelhamid Khattab

[a] The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 2,777.

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Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 3 March 2004 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

As it persists with the violent and bloody military campaign it has been incessantly waging in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, Israel, the occupying Power, continues to commit extrajudicial killings of Palestinian civilians in grave breach of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law. Today, the Israeli occupying forces fired air-to-land missiles at a car travelling on a road in the Gaza Strip, killing the three Palestinian men inside the car. The occupying Power affirmed that this missile attack was intended as a targeted killing of "militants". Today's attack comes on the heels of a similar attack carried out by the occupying forces on Saturday, 28 February 2004, in which missiles were also fired at a car in the Gaza Strip, killing three other Palestinian men.

Not only are such criminal actions by the occupying Power against the Palestinian civilian population continuing they are actually being escalated. Indeed, the Chief of Staff of the Israeli army, General Moshe Yaalon, affirmed yesterday the occupying Power's intentions to intensify attacks, including targeted killings, against Palestinians. He was quoted as stating, inter alia, "In this kind of situation, attack is the best form of defense". Moreover, Israeli army radio reported that orders had been given to "eliminate as many terrorists as possible".

It is starkly apparent that Israel, the occupying Power, is intentionally, deliberately and calculatedly escalating such attacks against the Palestinian population in an attempt to ignite the situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The daily actions of the occupying forces, including the killing and wounding of civilians, the continued confiscation of land, the destruction of property and the construction of the Wall, are clearly intended to aggravate the situation, inflame tensions and instigate a violent Palestinian response. Indeed, following the extrajudicial killings carried out today and on Saturday there have been repeated calls for revenge against the occupying Power by many within the Palestinian populace. It is unquestionable that these Israeli policies and practices

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aim to continue fueling the vicious cycle of violence between the two sides to the preclusion of any peace initiative or peace efforts, thus subverting any potential for dialogue between the two sides and a return to negotiations. Only by perpetuating the tumultuous situation on the ground and undermining all efforts to resume the peace process, can the current Israeli government, under the premiership of Mr. Sharon, facilitate the pursuit of its dangerous plans for imposing an unjust unilateral settlement on the Palestinian people.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 181 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 27 February 2004 (A/ES-10/257-S/2004/167), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my profound regret to inform you that, since my last letter to you five days ago, at least 12 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2003 to 2,789 Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item .., and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 3 March 2004 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (Saturday, 28 February 2004, to Wednesday, 3 March 2004)

Saturday, 28 February 2004

1. Mahmoud Abdel Fatah Joudeh
2. Ayman Shabaan Al-Dahdouh
3. Amin Hamdan Al-Dahdouh

Sunday, 29 February 2004

1. Mohammed Zuheir Mahmoud Oweis
2. Riyad Said Abu Shalal

Monday, 1 March 2004

1. Zeibeh Jamil Ayman Ady
2. Mohammed Mahmoud Ahmed Abu Rajab

Wednesday, 3 March 2004

1. Quies Aref Ofeh (18 years old)
2. Mohamed Dawood Badwan (died from wounds sustained on 26 February 2004)
3. Ibrahim Al-Deiry
4. Amar Hassan
5. Terad Al-Jimaly

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* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 2,789.